

## The International System of Units

a.k.a. "The Metric System"

Countries NOT using the metric system as their official system of measurement:



1

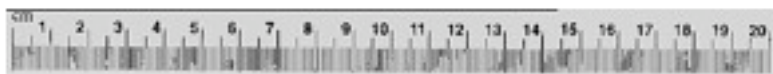
## So why use the metric system?

It is based on units of 10. Therefore it is mathematically much easier to work with than the "English" system!

All other countries, except Thailand and Gabon, use it!

EVERY other industrialized country uses it!

It is the unit of measurement for all scientists across the globe.



2

## Basic units

Length = meter

Mass = gram

Volume = liter



this almond  
has a mass of  
1 gram

1 liter  
beaker

meterstick

3

## important prefixes:

kilo = 1000 x      k

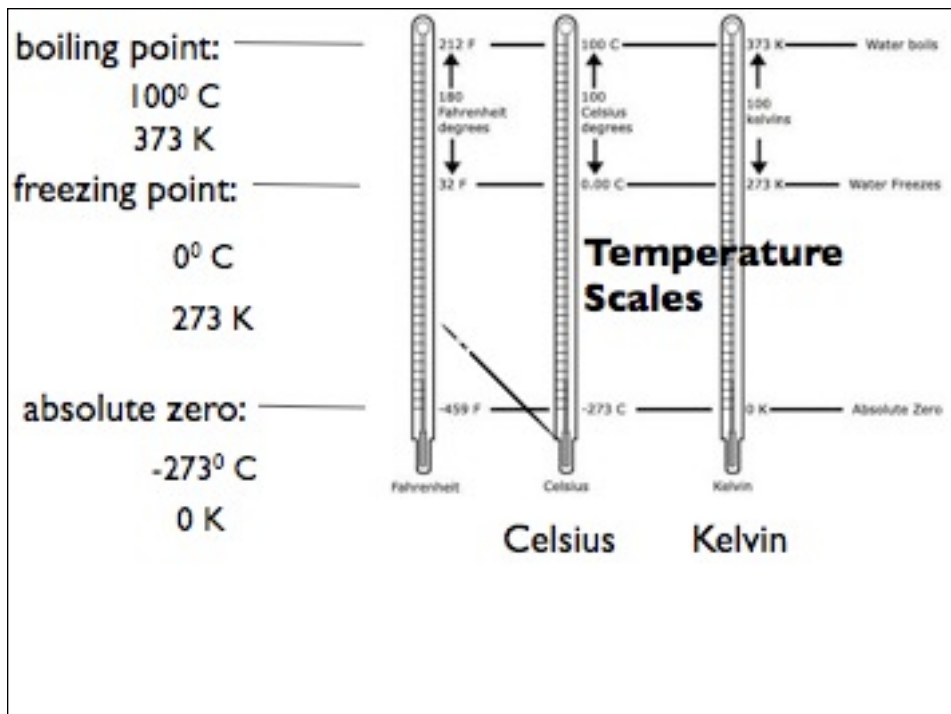
centi = 1/100      c

milli = 1/1000      m

micro = 1/1,000,000       $\mu$

nano = 1/1,000,000,000      n

4



5

**Density**  
 $= \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$   
 an intrinsic property

What observation can you make about the densities of steel, copper, and aluminum, based on these pictures?

steel 49.248 g

copper 56.536 g

aluminum 17.929 g

6

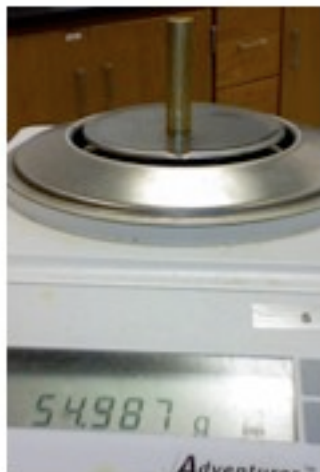
## Brass

Calculate the density of brass:

mass = 54.987 g

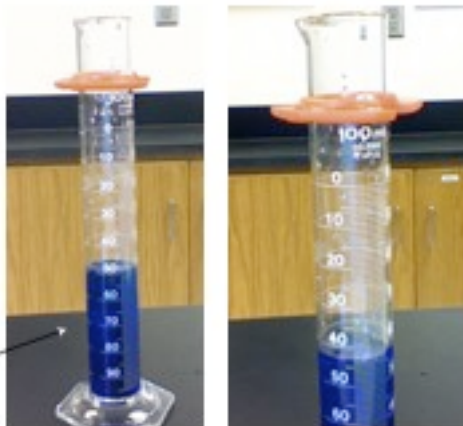
density = 7.9 g/ml

volume = 57.0 - 50.0 ml = 7.0 ml



Mass /

Volume measured by  
water displacement



7



brass



sand

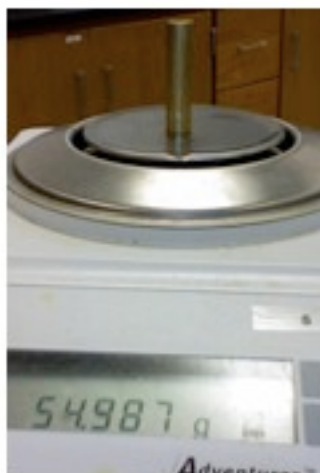
2 objects of  
the same  
mass.....



...have different volumes.  
What can we say about  
their densities?

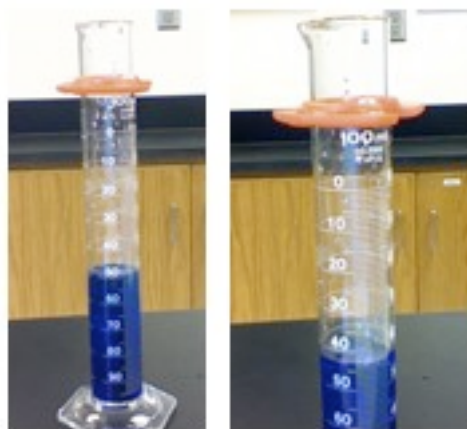
the density of brass is  
greater than sand

8

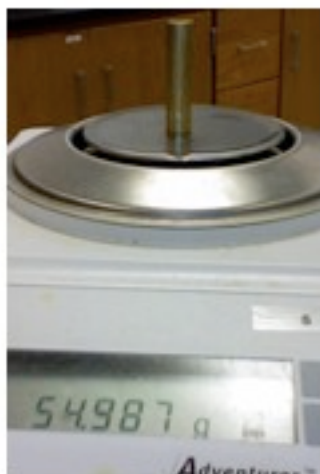


## Significant figures

how do we know how to round  
lab measurements and calculations?



9



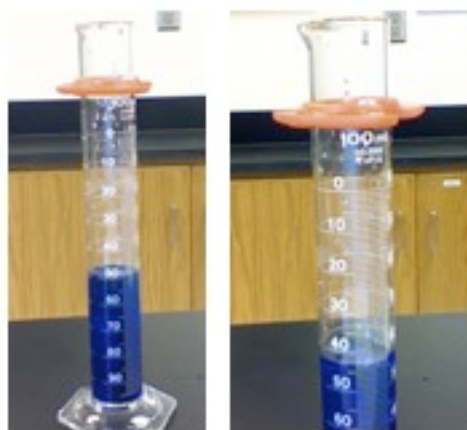
## Brass

consider again the density of brass:

mass = 54.987 g

density = 7.9 g/ml

volume = 57.0-50.0 ml = 7.0 ml



calculations are rounded  
to the like the value with  
the least number of digits

in this case, volume.

10



Calculations made from lab measurements must be rounded to the same number of decimals as the least precise measuring instrument.

Example:

mass measured on a balance = 6.579 g

volume measured in graduated cylinder = 3.2 ml

density = 2.1 g/ml

What if the volume were measured using an instrument that yielded 3.179 ml?????

Then, density of the object = 2.070 g/ml

11

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTATION

$$1 = 10^0$$

$$100 = 10^2$$

$$0.100 = 10^{-1}$$

$$1000 = 10^3$$

$$0.010 = 10^{-2}$$

$$1,000,000 = 10^6$$

$$0.000001 = 10^{-6}$$

Numbers greater than 1 =  
positive exponent

Numbers less than 1  
= negative exponent

used for really big or really small numbers

12

## SCIENTIFIC NOTATION REVIEW

- A.  $3456.78 \times 10^{-4} = 0.345678$
- B.  $3456.78 \times 10^4 = 34,567,800$
- C.  $0.0345678 \times 10^{-4} = 0.0000345678$
- D.  $3.45678 \times 10^4 = 34,567.8$

13

$$356,789 = 3.56789 \times 10^5$$

$$0.0356789 = 3.56789 \times 10^{-2}$$

$$356,789,000 = 3.56789 \times 10^8$$

$$0.0000356789 = 3.56789 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$35.6789 = 3.56789 \times 10^1$$

14